What Is Claimed Is:

1. An encryption key depositing apparatus comprising:

a unit that generates an encryption key for a user; and

a unit that starts a process in response to the generation of said encryption key, said process allowing a depositary deposited with said generated encryption key to store said key in a subsequently recoverable manner.

2. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encryption key is a private key of a public key cryptosystem.

3. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 1, further having rules established as a basis for determining said depositary, said encryption key being stored in accordance with said rules.

4. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a server and clients, wherein recovery information for recovering said encryption key is encrypted by a public key of said depositary and retained in said server.

5. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said server, in response to a recovery request from said depositary, sends to said depositary said recovery information encrypted by said public key of said depositary;

wherein said server acquires from said depositary said recovery information decrypted by a private key of said depositary and then encrypted by a public key of said server;

wherein the acquired encrypted recovery information is decrypted by use of a private key of said server, the decrypted recovery information being used together with said private key of said server regarding said depositary to decrypt said recovery information about said encryption key; and

wherein the decrypted recovery information is used to recover said encryption key.

6. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said server logs historical records of the recovery requests.

7. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said server, in response to an encryption key acquisition request from said depositary, encrypts said recovered encryption key

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using said public key of said depositary and sends said encrypted recovered encryption key to said depositary.

8. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said server logs historical records of the encryption key acquisition requests.

9. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said server does not send the recovered encryption key to said depositary, and performs on behalf of said depositary a process using said encryption key in response to a processing request from said depositary.

10. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said server logs historical records of the processing requests from said depositary.

11. The encryption key depositing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said historical records are supplied to the user to whom said encryption key is assigned.

12. The encryption key depositing method comprising the steps of:
        generating an encryption key for a user; and
        starting a process in response to the generation

of said encryption key, said process allowing a depositary deposited with the generated encryption key to store said key in a subsequently recoverable manner.

13. A computer program product comprising an encryption key depositing method in a manner executable by a computer system, said encryption key depositing method comprising the steps of:

generating an encryption key for a user; and

starting a process in response to the generation of said encryption key, said process allowing a depositary deposited with the generated encryption key to store the key in a subsequently recoverable manner.